

## REMARKS

Claim 10 was objected to due to a typographical error. Claim 10 has been amended to correct this error. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite due to the recitation of “each management message member” and “this current message.” These limitations have been removed by the amendments set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

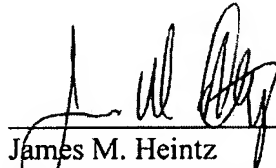
Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Deiss. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites the steps of “determining at a subscriber database whether processing of a received message is subject to a condition in the corresponding conditional block” and “if the processing of the received message is not subject to a condition, immediately processing said message.” These steps are neither taught nor suggested by Deiss. In Deiss’ system, there is no determination as to whether a message is subject to a condition. Rather, each message is subject to a single condition which is always the same – all prior messages must have been processed. Thus, Deiss does not disclose or suggest any system in which a message in a chain is not subject to any condition and can be processed immediately even if a prior message in the chain has not been received. Claim 1 also requires that “each management message member of said chain comprises . . . a conditional block.” Deiss also does not disclose such a conditional block as part of a management message member because, as discussed above, there is only a single, unchanging condition in Deiss’ system and therefore there is no need to include that condition in each management message member as recited in claim 1. Indeed, Deiss’ system is the type of prior art, and includes the same inherent limitations, that the system defined by claim 1 is able to avoid. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 10 and 16 include similar limitations and therefore define patentable subject matter for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1. All other currently pending claims depend from one of claims 1, 10 and 16 and therefore define patentable subject matter for at least this reason. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of all currently pending claims is respectfully requested.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration. If any issues remain which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants counsel, James M. Heintz at 202.799.4171.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER US LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J M Heintz', is written over a horizontal line.

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